Under sub-title 'Right to Information' the Report concludes that freedom of the press and access to information is key to transparency and accountability. The experiences of countries such as India that have progressively provided a legal basis for the right to information can prove extremely useful in this regard.

UT in Kerala

* 115. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has forwarded a proposal for setting up of an UT in that State;

(b) if so, whether the location for the proposed UT has been identified;

(c) whether the competent officials of the Ministry have visited the proposed site;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the approval for the proposal has been granted; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (f) The Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal for the setting up of a satellite campus of UT, Madras in Palakkad, Kerala and to convert it later into a full fledged UT. Officials of UT Madras had also met the Chief Minister of Kerala on 08.08.2006 to discuss the issue. The Government have, however, taken a decision that a large satellite campus of an UT with regular Bachelors and Masters programmes amount to setting up of a new UT and should be avoided. The Ministry, however, have no objection to the setting up of small extension centres by IITs outside their main campuses, which are devoted to continuing education, diploma courses, finishing schools, incubation programmes etc. Even in such cases, proposals would have to be referred to the Government for approval.

Funds for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

*116. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to sanction more funds under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRl ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Plan outlays for centrally sponsored schemes like